ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention is an audio-video communication and answering system that synergistically improves communication between an exterior and an interior of a business or residence and a remote location, improves communication between two or more rooms and a remote location, enables messages to be stored and accessed from both locally and remotely, and enables viewing, listening, and recording from a remote location. The system's properties make it particularly suitable as a sophisticated door answering – messaging system. The system has a DVMS module on the exterior. The DVMS module has a proximity sensor, a video camera, a microphone, a speaker, an RF transmitter, an RF receiver, and a keypad. The system also has a computerized controller with a graphic user interface DVMS database application. The computerized controller is in communication with a public switching telephone network, and an RF switching device. The RF switching device enables communication between the DVMS module and the computerized controller. The RF switching device can be in communication with other RF devices, such as a cell phone, PDA, or computer. The system has a recording means for recording video and audio communication that is transmitted to and from the DVMS module, and a playing means for playing video and audio communication stored on the recording means, or other storage devices. There is a speaker on the interior, which broadcast when a visitor arrives. The database application coordinates the multiple communication devices, and it is used to define responses to prompts and events. The proximity sensor activates the system when the sensor detects the visitor's presence. This then starts a series of prompts and interaction prescribed by the application. The system preferably also has a

DVMS transceiver for short-range communication with the visitor, and in one embodiment, an electrically actuated lock that can be actuated through a code entry or remotely. The system enables a visitor to communicate with an occupant either offsite or onsite, where the visitor never knows the occupant's location, unless the occupant discloses his location.